

associated with the open end of said tubular casing in substantially liquid-tight relation in the vicinity of its open top end, and

- 3) a specimen-pretreating reagent is accommodated in a
5 space between outer surface of said cylinder and inner surface of said tubular casing.

A vacuum sampling method according to the fifth aspect of the invention comprises

- using the vacuum sampling tube according to the first
10 aspect of the invention and collecting a specimen by vacuum into said inner casing

followed by causing said inner casing to be dissociated from said outer casing, and

- adding the specimen in said inner casing to a pretreating
15 reagent in said outer casing.

A vacuum sampling method according to the sixth aspect of the invention comprises

- using the vacuum sampling tube according to the second
20 aspect of the invention and collecting a specimen by vacuum into said cylinder

followed by causing said cylinder and said tubular casing to slide axially to dissociate the open bottom end of said cylinder from said plug means,

- thereby introducing the specimen in said cylinder into
25 a pretreating reagent in said tubular casing.

The vacuum sampling method according to the seventh aspect of the invention comprises

- using the vacuum sampling tube according to the third
30 aspect of the invention and collecting a specimen by vacuum into said cylinder

followed by bringing said cylinder and said tubular casing into relative rotation about the axis to substantially align the notch of the open bottom end of said cylinder with the notch of said plug means,

- 35 thereby bringing internal spaces of said cylinder and said

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